

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) An audio decoding apparatus comprising:
a decoding unit which receives audio data including a plurality of coded sample data, decodes the sample data, groups respective pluralities of the sample data, after decoding, into respective blocks, and adds control information relating to attributes of the plurality of sample data in a respective block to ~~that~~ the respective block;
a storage unit which temporarily stores the blocks; and
an output unit which outputs the sample data of each block that has been temporarily stored, based on the control information added to the respective block, wherein said decoding unit groups sample data having identical attributes into one block.

3. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit groups each plurality of sample data into a respective block in frame units.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds to the control information starting information that indicates sample data from which output control can be started.

6. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information, channel information indicating number of channels that are to be output for each sample data.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An audio decoding apparatus ~~according to claim 2~~ comprising:

a decoding unit which receives audio data including a plurality of coded sample data, decodes the sample data, groups respective pluralities of sample data, after decoding, into respective blocks, and adds control information relating to attributes of the plurality of sample data in a respective block to the respective block;

a storage unit which temporarily stores the blocks; and

an output unit which outputs the sample data of each block that has been temporarily stored, based on the control information added to the respective block, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information number, information indicating number of sample data that have been grouped in one block.

8. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information, information indicating a down sample.

9. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information, length information indicating word length of data to be output.

10. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information, length information indicating word length of data to be output when there are plurality of outputs.

11. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information, channel information indicating formation of an output channel.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An audio decoding apparatus ~~according to claim 11~~ comprising:

a decoding unit which receives audio data including a plurality of coded sample data, decodes the sample data, groups respective pluralities of sample data, after decoding, into respective blocks, and adds control information relating to attributes of the

plurality of sample data in a respective block to the respective block;
a storage unit which temporarily stores the blocks; and
an output unit which outputs the sample data of each block that has been
temporarily stored, based on the control information added to the respective block,
wherein

said decoding unit adds, to the control information, channel information
indicating formation of an output channel, and

said decoding unit adds, to the control information, slot information
indicating number of slots of the output channel.

13. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 12,
wherein the number of slots is variable.

14. (Previously Presented) The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein said decoding unit adds, to the control information, distribution information
indicating data distribution of said output unit.